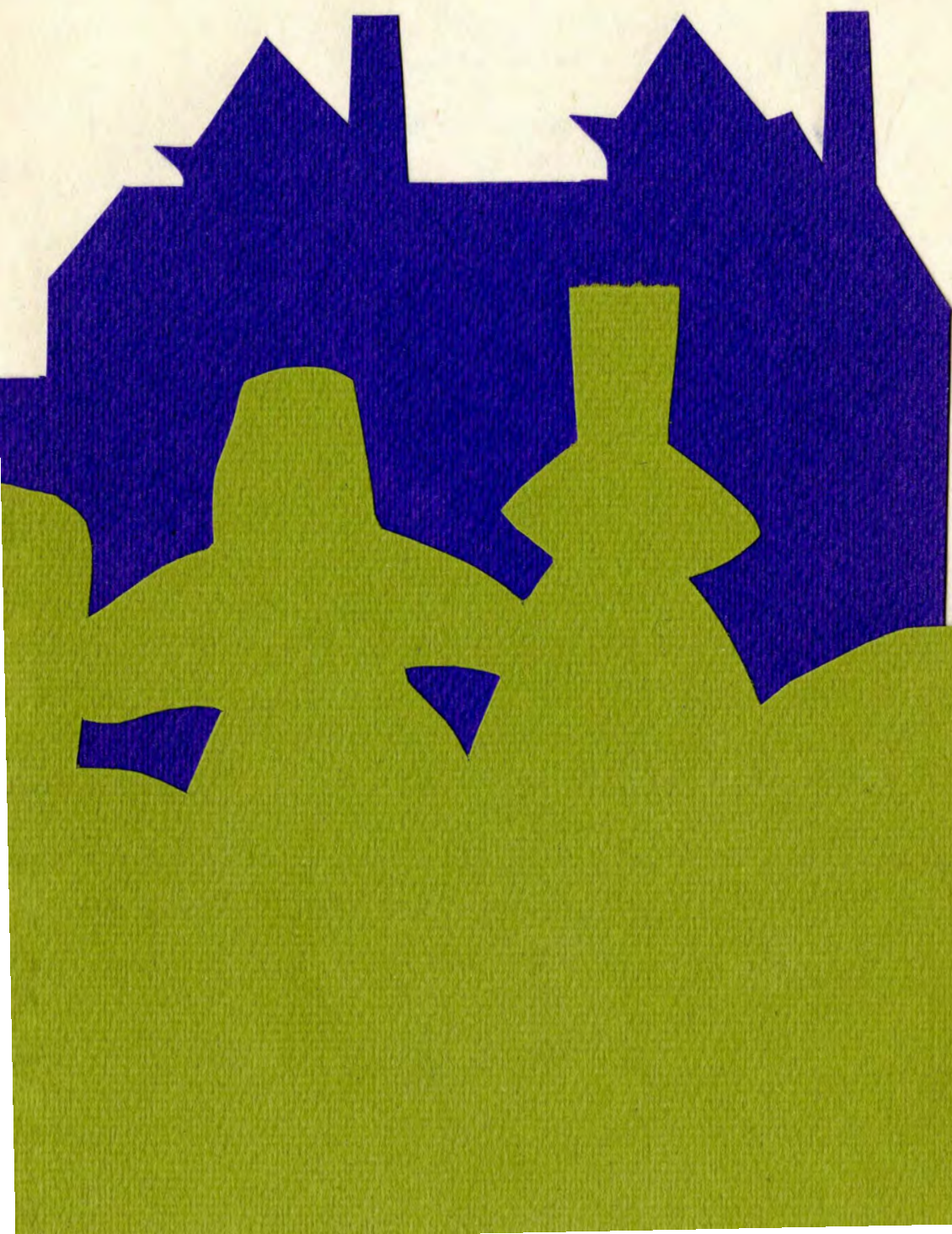


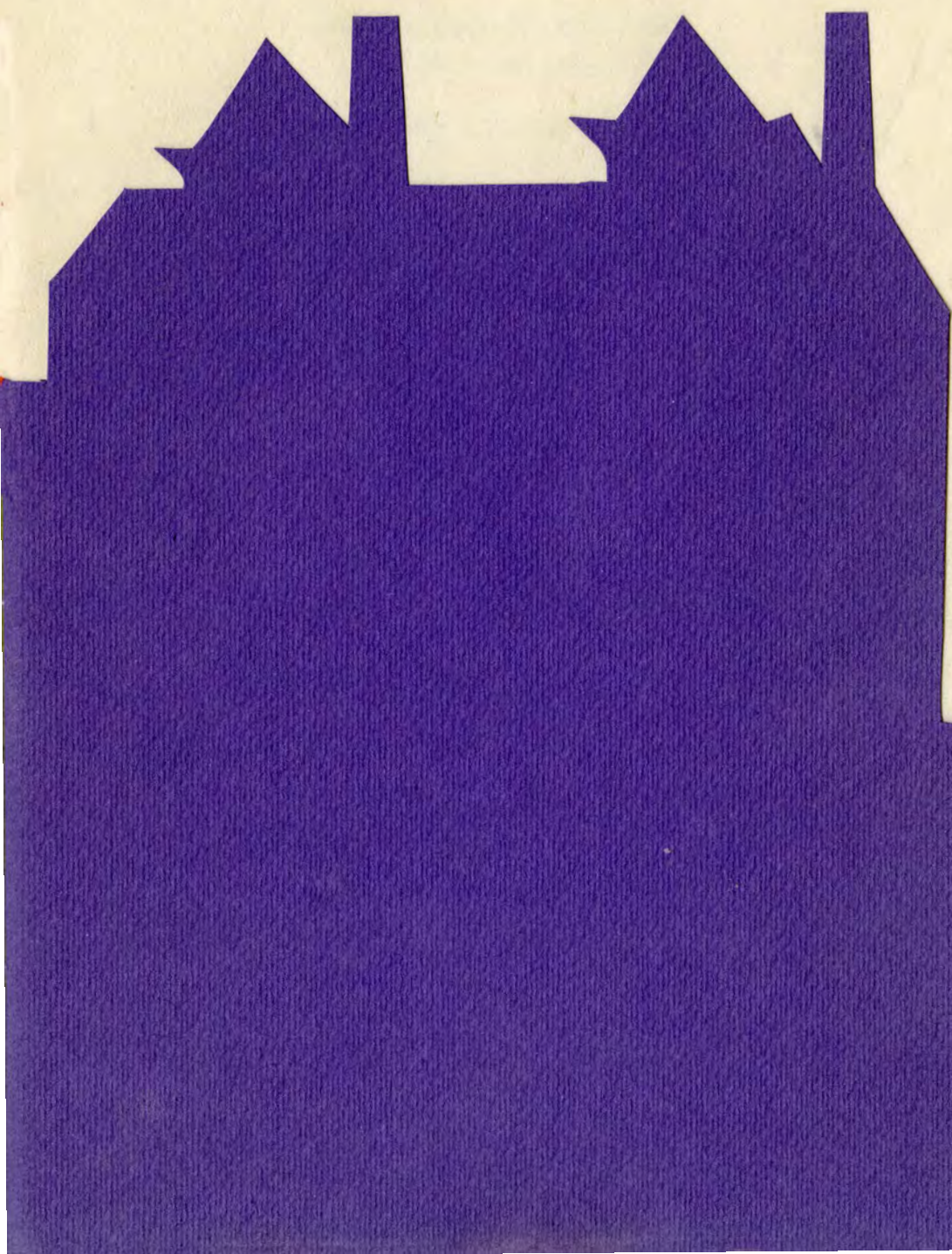


The Fireproof Floors of Witley Court





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English Songs and Dances by James Schuyler

The Janus Press Newark West Burke Vermont

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Witley Court

In northwest Worcestershire
in eighteen-sixty
Samuel Dawkes installed
the fireproof floors of Witley Court

Put to the test in a fire
the firemen could not extinguish
the fireproof floors
failed to distinguish
themselves and are no longer
really to be trusted

Visitor to Witley Court
enter at your peril

Below the Stairs

1

Anaemia, dyspepsia and ulcer
afflict the chambermaid

It's the damnable food you give her
'kitchen' tea
'kitchen' meat
'kitchen' butter

that force her
to indulge in
unhealthy 'between meal' snacks

2

Brown and Lilly Bungalows
Boston Garters Simpitol

The search for health and pleasure
leads to no fairer clime

Laxton House and Hamble Bank
The Grange and Brinkley Grove

How is it you got out so early?

Oh the missis bought a vacuum
and it do the work in no time

In a Churchyard

Where droop the little ivy shoots
the sun slants down to kiss
the heaps of mellow headstones
brown and gold with tender lichen

Where soil runs deep and loamy
sturdy, unabashed,
singly, in pairs or in great batches
ever where the sun shall be their lover
daffodils!
who need slight wooing
to flaunt their winsome charms

Hats

A cherry colored picture hat
of Tagal straw, its only trimming
a black and white big windmill bow
at one side, or in front

A shady hat in silver straw
the brim rolled up
and on the crown a clump
of blue wings from an Indian jay

Frock

I love crystal fringe on a dance frock
and the ripple of light as you pass
in a plain little chemisette bodice
drawn down from your shoulder
by long heavy tassels that match
your tunic of pale rose-pink charmeuse

What Ails My Fern?

My peonies have lovely leaves
but rarely flower.
Oh they have buds
and plenty of them. These
grow to the size of peas
and stay
that way.
Is this
bud blast?

What ails my fern?

I enclose a sample
of a white disease
and a leaf
of honesty
known also
as the money plant

My two blue spruce
look worse and worse

What ails my fern?

Two years ago a tenant
wound tape around my tree.
Sap dripped out of the branches
on babies in buggies below. So
I unwound the tape.
Can nothing be done
to revive my tree?

What ails my fern?

I hate my disordered
backyard fence
where lilac, weigela
and mock orange grow.
Please advise
how to get rid of it.

Weeping willow roots
reaching out
seeking water
fill my cesspool and well.
What do you suggest?

What ails my fern?

Wild Eggs

For her size the moor hen
lays a large egg
and many of them
and the eggs make delicate eating

By abstraction she
can be made to lay
more than her normal number
and her eggs make delicate eating

Boer War Bread Strike

Over-sifted fine white flour
with little crust
and that not crisp

We cannot fight on this glue
give us the bread we are used to

Of stone-ground flour
the kissing-crust
the color of the rest
and baked right through

Bread for bread, bread
for the prisoners
each craving what
from his youth he ate
not the bread of exile
and that not crisp

Procession

Serene and purple twilight of the South
the wind-distorted olives
so dim beside the road
so very still tonight
the sea delicately touches
the shore with foam

Black clad, glimmer of white
pyramids of trembling gold
up the white road wind
in misty iris blue

a cross, a crown, a spear

the air is drenched

the nails, the hammer

fragrance of lemon and orange

the scourge, a sponge

salt perfume of the sea

Adverts

1

Ambrosia

Fry's Cocoa! the word
means food of the gods

So perfect, so peerless
nothing to throw away
more and more relied on

Fry's Cocoa! I repeat
there is no better food

Goodbye, Cheap Lamps

What fine lamps
these Mazdas are!

We were wise to say,
Goodbye, cheap lamps

And to heavy bills
for current, too!

Yes. There's no doubt
about it. So-called
cheap lamps cost
most in the long run

In future we
will stick to
Mazda lamps
with the wonderful no-sag filament

That's what I
call a good light

Swan and Edgar Good Linen

We sleep on linen
we dress in linen
we clothe our table
with a linen cloth

Constant service
lasting pleasure
indeed it is
a royal fabric

Swan and Edgar
Good linen
Swan and Edgar
Good linen



One hundred & fifty copies have been designed, handset in Monotype Times New Roman, printed, torn, cut, and bound by Claire Van Vliet at the Janus Press on and of Kozu, Fabriano and Canson paper. The endpapers are the topiary gardens of Levens Hall, Westmorland, England. This is copy no









